

### Claims

1. A drug product for the prevention, improvement in conditions relating to, and/or treatment of bowel disease, comprising  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan derived from vegetable material and having a molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 20,000.
2. The drug product of claim 1, wherein said vegetable matter comprises a mushroom.
3. The drug product of claim 1, wherein said  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan is obtained by hydrolysis of a glucan.
4. The drug product of claim 1, wherein said  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan is obtained from the aqueous extraction product of a mushroom.
5. The drug product of claim 4, wherein said  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan is further obtained by alcohol precipitation and decomposition.
6. The drug product of claim 1, which is suitable for oral administration.
7. The drug product of claim 1, where said bowel disease is inflammatory bowel disease.
8. The drug product of claim 1, wherein said molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 20,000 denotes an average molecular weight.
9. The drug product of claim 2, wherein said mushroom comprises a Shiitake.
10. The drug product of claim 1, which is in the form of a health food product.

11. A method of preventing, improving conditions relating to, and/or treating bowel disease comprising administering to a body a drug product comprising  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan derived from vegetable material and having a molecular weight of from 5,000 to 20,000. ~
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) is derived from a Shiitake mushroom.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said drug product is suitable for oral administration. 47
14. A drug product useful in preventing, improving conditions relating to, and/or treating bowel disease comprising  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan derived from a Shiitake mushroom and having a molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 20,000. 4
15. A method of preventing, improving conditions relating to, and/or treating bowel disease comprising administering to a body a drug product comprising  $\beta$  (1 $\rightarrow$ 3) glucan derived from a Shiitake mushroom and having a molecular weight of from 5,000 to 20,000.